

## **The Law of Physics versus Rule of Law: Dealing with Uncertainty, Vacuums and Relativity in Coastal Management in Developing Countries**

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Decentralization is sweeping across much of the developing world – 63 out of 75 countries have adopted some form of decentralization according to the World Bank. Many of these are coastal countries, none larger than Indonesia, which is the world's fourth largest country, with the world's second longest coastline, as well as serious marine resource conflicts in areas such as overfishing, coral degradation, and turtles. Despite this, coastal resource management has long been neglected, and only in the last three years has there been any meaningful effort to develop a new national law on integrated coastal management. This effort coincides with the Indonesia's 'big bang' in decentralization, which has led local governments to begin enacting their own coastal management laws. The presentation will look at the challenges faced by both central and regional governments, and how stakeholders are responding. It will look at how new laws are being drafted, and consider new methods for achieving elements of good governance, such as participation, transparency, accountability, and coordination.